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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING A REPORT


OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.



NOVEMBER 27, 1820.

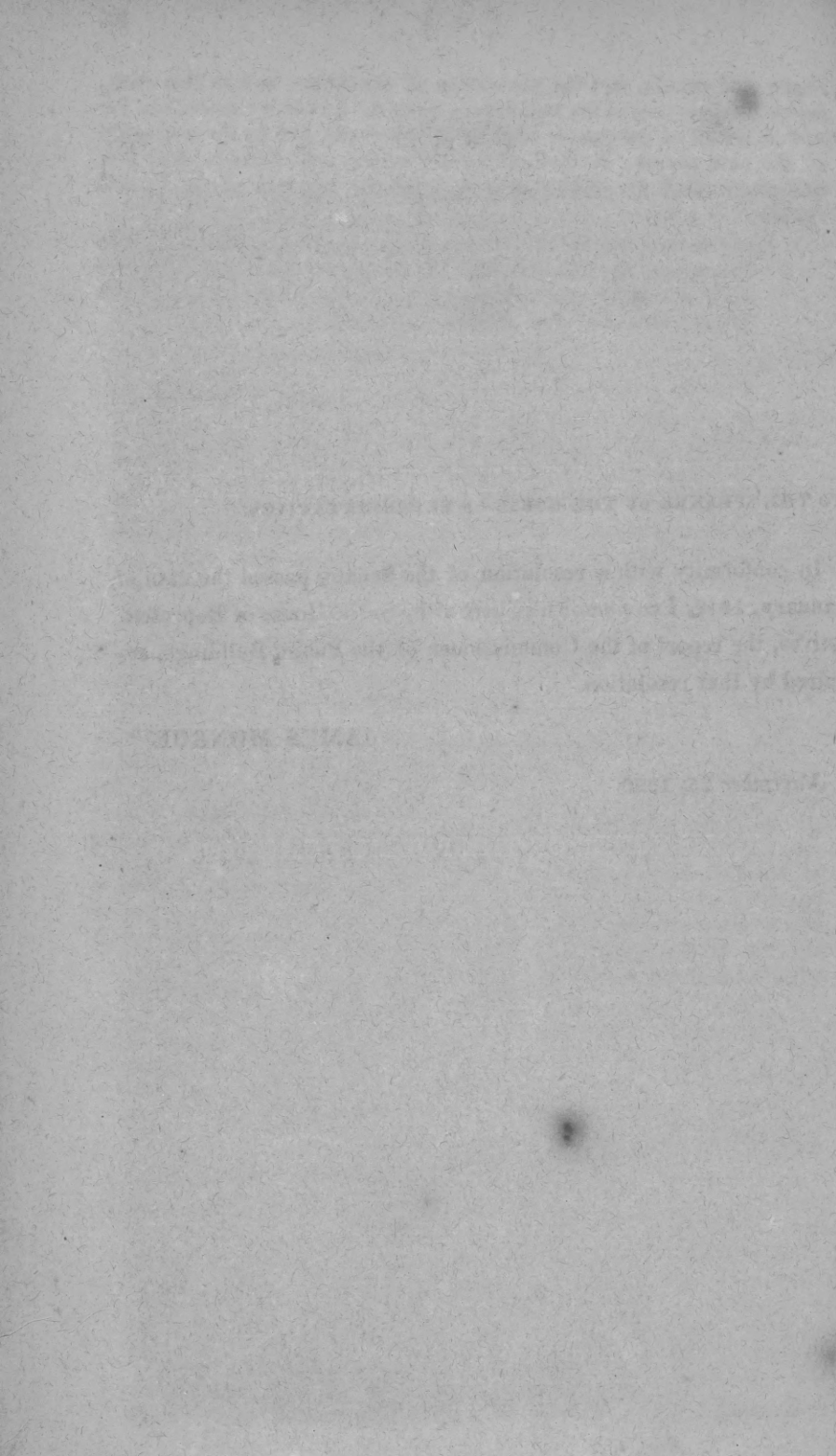
Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.



WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1820.



TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In conformity with a resolution of the Senate, passed the 28th of January, 1818, I communicate, herewith, to the House of Representatives, the report of the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, required by that resolution.

JAMES MONROE.

November 23, 1820.

WASHINGTON, November 22, 1820.

To the President of the United States:

SIR: The expenditures on account of the Centre Building of the Capitol, from October 1st, 1819, to the 30th of September, 1820, as far as regular vouchers have been received, amount to one hundred and twenty-seven thousand three hundred and ninety-six dollars, and fourteen cents. For the progress made in this building, I beg leave to refer to the report of the Architect, a copy of which, marked A, is annexed.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL LANE,

Commissioner Public Buildings.

A.

WASHINGTON, November 19, 1820.

SAMUEL LANE, Esq.

Commissioner of Public Buildings:

SIR: At the close of the season for active operations, I present a statement of the proceedings for the past year, and of the progress made on the capitol of the United States.

The alterations and improvements suggested for the Representatives' Room and Senate Chamber have been effected within the amount of the estimated expense. Considerable progress has also been made in regulating and improving the grounds; the planting of trees and shrubbery will be continued while the weather will permit.

The work on the centre of the Capitol has been urged on with as much force and despatch as the solid nature of its construction would allow. The external walls of the west projection, and the greater part of the internal walls connected with them, have been raised to the height contemplated in the estimate for the year; the roof is raised on the north flank of the centre, and that for the south flank is prepared, but has been prevented from being put on by the inclemency of the weather in October, and by an unusual sickness among the workmen. The wall of the east front is not raised as high as was expected, from an opinion that it would be more advisable that the inner walls of the great rotunda should be carried on at the same time for the purpose of making a more equal bearing, and pressing more regularly on the foundation. The walls of the rotunda have accordingly been commenced, and give an opportunity of viewing the style and manner in which it will be finished. Although a portion of the labor has been differently bestowed from what was first contemplated, yet, it is believed, that it will appear that the change was judicious, and that as much progress has been made in the work as was promised or expected; that it has been done with economy, and that the expense has been kept within the estimates.

Respectfully submitted, by your obedient servant,

CHARLES BULFINCH,

Architect of Capitol United States:

